

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

SHERRI CASSIDY, CPFO, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
&  
RYAN PARSELL, CHIEF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**Citizen Outreach Group – August 19, 2019**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Adams, Jeff Aldrich, CheyAnne Clemons, Kelvin Dean Ed Dill, Arthur Glynn, Annette Hagopian, Creed Spillane  
**Excused Members:** MaryAnna Clemons, Roland Rainey  
**Unexcused Members:** David Couch  
**County Staff Present:** Sherri Cassidy, Kenny Hodges, Ryan Parsell, Deanna Ruschioni  
**Commissioners Present:** Mark Waller, Chair, and Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., Vice-Chair  
**Guest Speakers/Guests:**

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The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Administrative Items**

- 1) A motion was made to approve the May 13, 2019 meeting minutes; it was seconded and the minutes were approved as written.
- 2) A motion was made to approve the June 10, 2019 meetings minutes; it was seconded and the minutes were approved as written.
- 3) Ryan Parsell reminded the COG members about the 2019 Harassment Training for Boards & Commissioner Volunteers meeting scheduled on September 9, 2019, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. at the Centennial Hall Auditorium.
- 4) Ryan also mentioned to the COG that on September 14, 2019 the Innovation Festival Downtown Colorado Springs will be taking place once again on the grounds at the Centennial Hall building which is extended to the public. This year the Department of Public Works was asked to participate and they will be showcasing some of their innovative aspects such as the re-claimer, snowplows, the new solution they are using to melt ice, etc. – things that will be interactive with the public. The Public Information Office will provide more information to the COG for those who might be interested in volunteering.

## **2019 El Paso County Citizens College**

Stephanie Adams provided an update to the COG. She mentioned the sub-committee worked on this during the month of June. She presented a couple of models and it was mentioned that it might be best for this to take place during the fall of 2020, with year-round information and content listed on the website. The COG discussed several different ideas, and Stephanie will draft up the new information and provide it to the COG.

It was also mentioned that the Sheriff's office provides their version of a Citizens College; the El Paso County Sheriff's Office 2019/2020 Citizens Academy. It starts on September 17, 2019 and finishes in October, 2019. For those COG members who might be interested, the applications need to be turned in by the end of August, 2019.

## **2019 Financial Condition:**

Sherri Cassidy provided an overview of the 2019 Financial Condition, touching base on:

- 2020-2024 Financial Roadmap
  - 2019 – 2023 Final Roadmap
    - Dept/Office Critical Needs
  - 2020 – 2024 Projections
    - Changes to Financial Roadmap
      - 2019 Revenue Projections
      - 2020 Preliminary Balanced Budget
        - Self-Insurance Fund
        - Retirement
        - DHS
        - Capital Improvements Fund
        - Human Capital
        - Road and Bridge & Fleet
        - General Fund
      - Major Pressures on Self Insurance Fund – Health
      - Items of Consideration
        - TABOR
        - 27 Paychecks
- Budget Process
  - Offsites July 17<sup>th</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Preliminary Balanced Budget
  - October 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – Critical Needs Presentations
    - Schedule for Presentations
    - COG Report
  - November 14<sup>th</sup> – Final Direction by BoCC
  - December 10<sup>th</sup> – Original Adopted Budget

Commissioner Chair, Mark Waller spoke to the policy reasons of why El Paso County decided to refund the TABOR overage this time instead of asking the voters to keep it:

- El Paso County just went to the voters in 2017 and asked to keep the \$15M overage & increased the TABOR cap base.
- The City of Colorado Springs has gone to the ballot several times over the last couple of election cycles asking for more money, and they have two more issues going on the ballot: \$7.2M TABOR retention for parks & putting 2C back on the ballot to be renewed.
- Property assessments are way up which has caused property taxes to increase.
- The State is putting the Proposition CC issue on the ballot.

The County did an assessment of the citizens, and the polling results showed that the public does not have an appetite for a County-wide TABOR retention again this year. However, next year we will probably need to ask for a TABOR overage retention and possibly reset the base again.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m., with a tour afterwards of the Department of Public Works building.